

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-14 NSC-07 CPR-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

INR-09 NSAE-00 PA-01 RSC-01 USIA-04 PRS-01 SP-02

SAM-01 OMB-01 AF-04 AID-05 DRC-01 /059 W

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R 071230Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY RABAT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3432

C O N F I D E N T I A L RABAT 4915

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR MO IR TU PO SY QA SU

SUBJ: KING APPOINTS SIX AMBASSADORS

REF: RABAT 4654

1. ON OCT 3, KING HASSAN PRESENTED CREDENTIALS TO SIX NEWLY DESIGNATED GOM AMBASSADORS. THEY ARE:

(A) AHMED SENOUSI, CURRENTLY AMB TO US, ASSIGNED TO IRAN (REFTEL).

(B) DR. MEHDI BENABUD, DIRECTOR, ARAB LEAGUE DIVISION, FOREIGN MINISTRY, TO BE AMBASSADOR TO TURKEY.

(C) TAIEB BEN BOUAZZA, AT PRESENT DIRECTOR OF AFRICA-ASIA DIVISION, FOREIGN MINISTRY, TO BE NEW AMBASSADOR TO PORTUGAL.

(D) AHMED EL IDRISI, MOROCCAN CONSUL GENERAL IN BRUSSELS, ASSIGNED AS AMBASSADOR TO SYRIA.

(E) MOHAMED TAHAR BENNANI, COUNSELOR AT THE MOROCCAN EMBASSY IN CAIRO, TO BE AMBASSADOR TO QATAR.

(F) ABDELLATIF LAKHMIRI, COUNSELOR IN THE SEC GEN'S OFFICE, FOREIGN MINISTRY, TO BE AMBASSADOR TO SUDAN.

2. APPOINTMENTS NOT EARTH-SHAKING. BENNANI AND LAKHMIRI WILL BE FIRST GOM AMBS IN QATAR AND SUDAN, AND BOUAZZA'S APPOINTMENT MARKS FULL RESTORATION OF GOM RELATIONS WITH PORTUGAL WHICH WERE BROKEN YEAR AGO. MOST SIGNIFICANT POST
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FROM GOM'S POINT OF VIEW IS SYRIA, AND IT TO BE FILLED BY

RELATIVELY YOUTHFULL (44) THOUGH SEASONED IDRISSE WHO HAS SERVED IN SPAIN AND FRANCE IN ADDITION TO BRUSSELS AND LONG TOUR IN RABAT.

3. BENABUD AND BOUAZZA ARE SENIOR OFFICIALS BOTH WITH PREVIOUS AMBASSADORIAL EXPERIENCE. FORMER WAS MOST UNCOMMUNICATIVE AND SEEMINGLY UNINFORMED DURING HIS SERVICE AS CHIEF OF ARAB LEAGUE DIVISION IN MINISTRY. HIS STANDARD APPROACH TO SUBSTANTIVE CONVERSATIONS WAS THAT HE WAS NOT PRIVY TO GOM'S THINKING ON ARAB AFFAIRS. BOUAZZA WAS TRADE UNIONIST BEFORE JOINING MINISTRY. WE HAVE HAD LITTLE CONTACT WITH HIM.

4. BIO NOTES WILL BE REPORTED TO DEPT AND INTERESTED POSTS BY SEPTELS.
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